

BOOK REVIEWS

THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

ARTHRITIS SURGERY—Leonard Marmor, MD, Attending Surgeon, St. John's Hospital, Santa Monica, California; Lecturer, Prosthetics Education Project, University of California, Los Angeles, Center for the Health Sciences. Lea & Febiger, Washington Square, Philadelphia (19106), 1976. 548 pages, \$48.50.

The author decided to change the title of his original book in 1967 from *Surgery of Rheumatoid Arthritis to Arthritis Surgery*. Numerous advances and contributions during the past decade in the fields of arthritis justify this increased scope.

Despite the title of the book, *Arthritis Surgery*, the author discusses the multiple facets of both rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis from the standpoint of etiological and diagnostic procedures and then gives a good resume of the conservative therapeutic measures before presenting a discussion of surgery. The presence of these multiple facets well indicates, as he points out, the need for a multidisciplinary approach in the management of these complex problems, and which include collaboration with laboratory, medical, rheumatology, radiology and physical therapy personnel.

Conservative therapeutic measures for the various joints are presented, including medication, intraarticular injections, physical therapy, exercises, splints, braces and so forth. It is well pointed out that much benefit can accrue with such conservative measures and especially if such are instituted early in the course of the disease and thereby either avoid or at least considerably delay need for surgery.

Surgical procedures are discussed and, in general, well documented for the numerous joints, with known benefit or lack of it outlined based on experience and observation of different operative measures. Good discussions are given referable to contraindications for surgical operation as well as specific indications. Throughout, the author mentions important factors to help prevent post-operative infections, also—and particularly applicable in surgical procedures on the lower extremities—precautions to take to prevent thrombophlebitis and possible embolism.

The importance of careful preoperative study and particularly the psychosomatic analysis of the patient is stressed. Often patients are depressed due to increasing disability and the feeling that nothing can be done. If, on the other hand, patients, especially those with rheumatoid arthritis, can be offered even possible help by the surgeon, the personality frequently changes, depression improves and an optimistic outlook results. This increases motivation and, with good postoperative cooperation, motivation enhances success.

The author describes surgical reconstruction for joints of the upper extremities, including the hand, with both cosmetic and functional benefits therefrom, to allow the patient to feed himself, take care of personal needs and become more independent. He also reviews the several surgical procedures which offered only variable success for hip disease that were in vogue before the advent of total hip joint replacement. The latter, of course, with the use of methylmethacrylate, has had remarkable success.

There is considerable discussion about knee joint arthritis, and included are comments about intraarticular injections, including thiotepa combined with steroids, synovectomy, osteotomy for realignment of weight bearing, joint debridement and arthrodesis and patellectomy. Early joint implants with limited success are mentioned

and then the author discusses some of the present knee joint replacements being used. He spends much time detailing the "Marmor Modular Knee" and with an apparent personal series of 332 cases. Such a large series would of necessity lead to enthusiasm and improved operative skill, and, with added attention to all details before, during and after operation on his part, should lead to improved results. He however records some complications with the Marmor knee. It is recognized that total knee joint replacements are far less successful than those for the hip. Compere, in *Orthopaedics Digest* (Feb. 1977), states that at least 90 different knee joints are now being studied and approximately 20 are being used routinely in individual practices.

It is obvious that further studies are necessary of implant replacements, the various materials used and fixation of these materials to bone (acrylic cement), as well as of the wear, tolerance and longevity of each and all.

The book is well written and easy to read. It includes many excellent illustrations, anatomical line drawings and photographs before, during and after operation, which add much to a better comprehension of problems, procedures and results. It is recommended for all those who are either students of, or responsible for treating, these common and difficult problems of arthritis.

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ETHICS OF NEWBORN INTENSIVE CARE—Edited by Albert R. Jonsen, PhD, Associate Professor of Bioethics; and Michael J. Garland, PhD, Lecturer in Bioethics, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. A Joint Publication of Health Policy Program, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, and Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 1976. Send order to the Institute of Governmental Studies, 109 Moses Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, 193 pages (155 pages, excluding notes and appendix), \$4.00 (paperback), single copies free on request.

The book is a symposium based on materials presented at a conference held at the University of California, San Francisco, in May 1974. Contributors include physicians, nurses, a psychologist, a social worker, an attorney and members of the Bioethics Department of the School of Medicine.

The symposium addresses the difficult issue of life and death decisions in the context of neonatal intensive care units. It does not provide arbitrary solutions, but discusses the decision-making process from the standpoint of individual responsibility within the framework of society's concern for these decisions. The difficult decisions discussed are being made daily and this publication successfully airs the basis on which such decisions are made. Although the central role of the parents in decision-making is emphasized, no input from parents is provided. The symposium is well-written and presented in nontechnical terms. It is suitable reading for anyone interested in the process of making decisions on large issues of survival in our society. It is recommended for all persons involved in these decisions in a neonatal intensive care unit.

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